

Across Canada with Gabriel and the Groovy Streetcar



by: Alexandra Marin

Christmas 2019

For Gabriel,

May your adventures be filled with the joy of discovery, and may you always be surrounded by the people and things you love best.

Love,
Mummy

Gabriel loved

STREETCARS!!



He loved riding streetcars.

He loved playing with streetcars.





He loved driving streetcars.



He even loved reading about streetcars.



One day Gabriel was playing with his favourite streetcar when suddenly he heard a

POP!

A teal button rolled across the floor and under the bed. “I’ll catch that button!” Gabriel said.

Gabriel got down on the floor next to the bed, but he could not reach the button.





He stretched his arms,
but he could not reach the
button.

Gabriel crawled under the
bed, but STILL, he could not
reach the button.



Gabriel crawled farther and farther under the bed. For many days and many nights, Gabriel crawled through the dark tunnel under his bed.

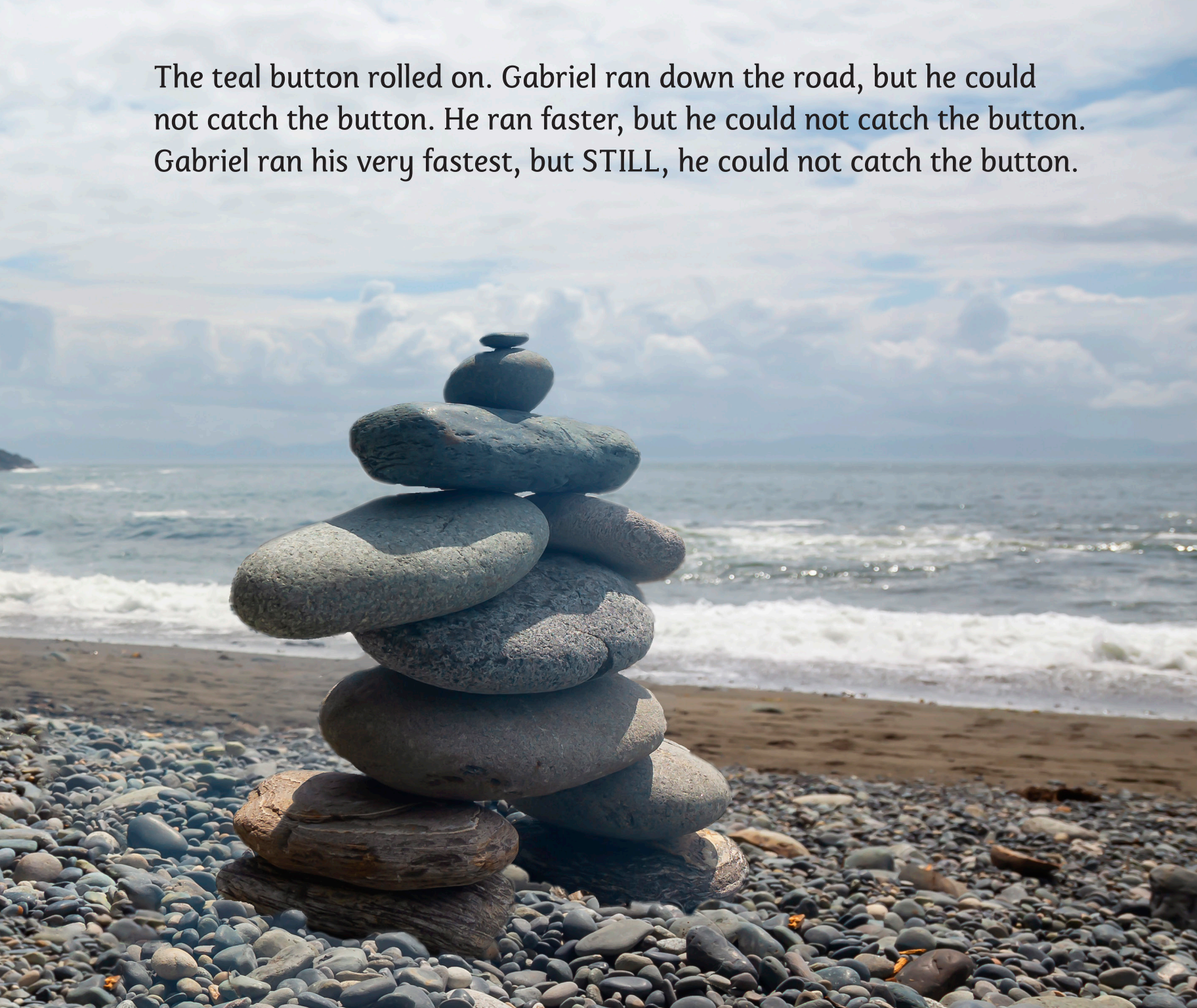
Until, at last, he saw a light.



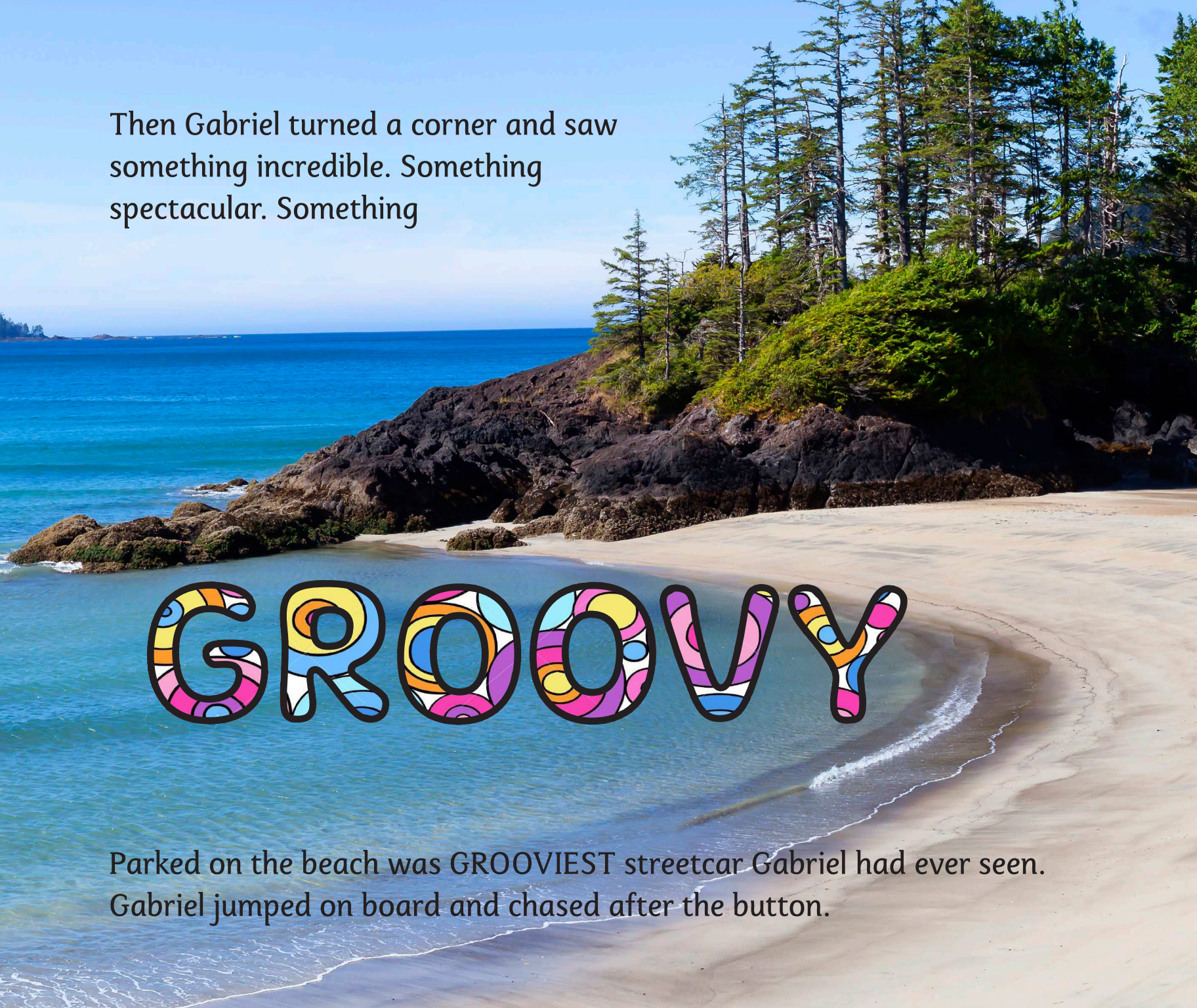
Gabriel crawled out of the tunnel. He admired the trees, the rocky shore, and the magnificent Pacific Ocean. He smelled the fresh air and sighed happily, “Vancouver Island...” Then, “Huh, that big boy bed is a lot bigger than it looks!”



The teal button rolled on. Gabriel ran down the road, but he could not catch the button. He ran faster, but he could not catch the button. Gabriel ran his very fastest, but STILL, he could not catch the button.



Then Gabriel turned a corner and saw
something incredible. Something
spectacular. Something

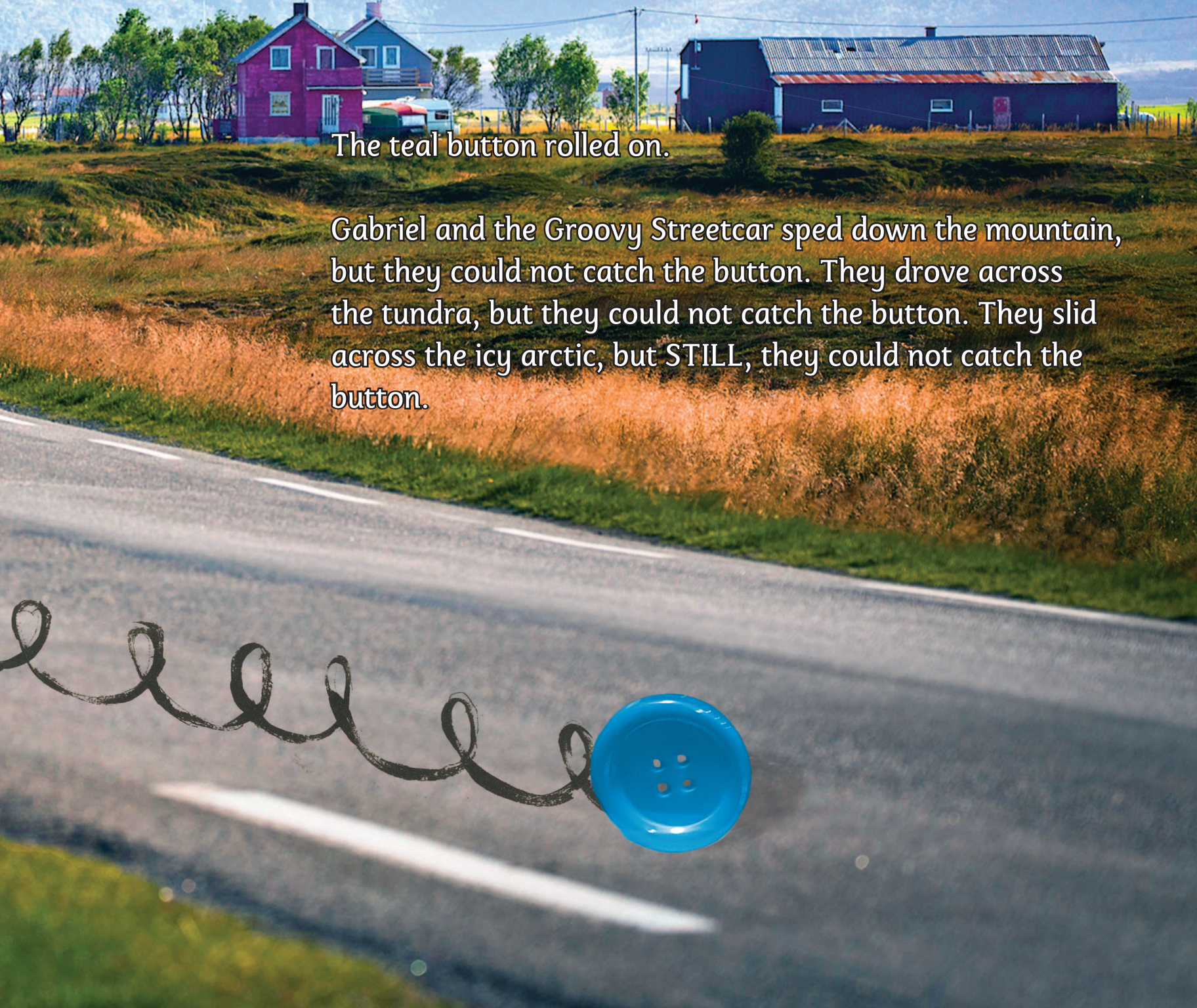


GROOVY

Parked on the beach was GROOVIEST streetcar Gabriel had ever seen.
Gabriel jumped on board and chased after the button.







The teal button rolled on.

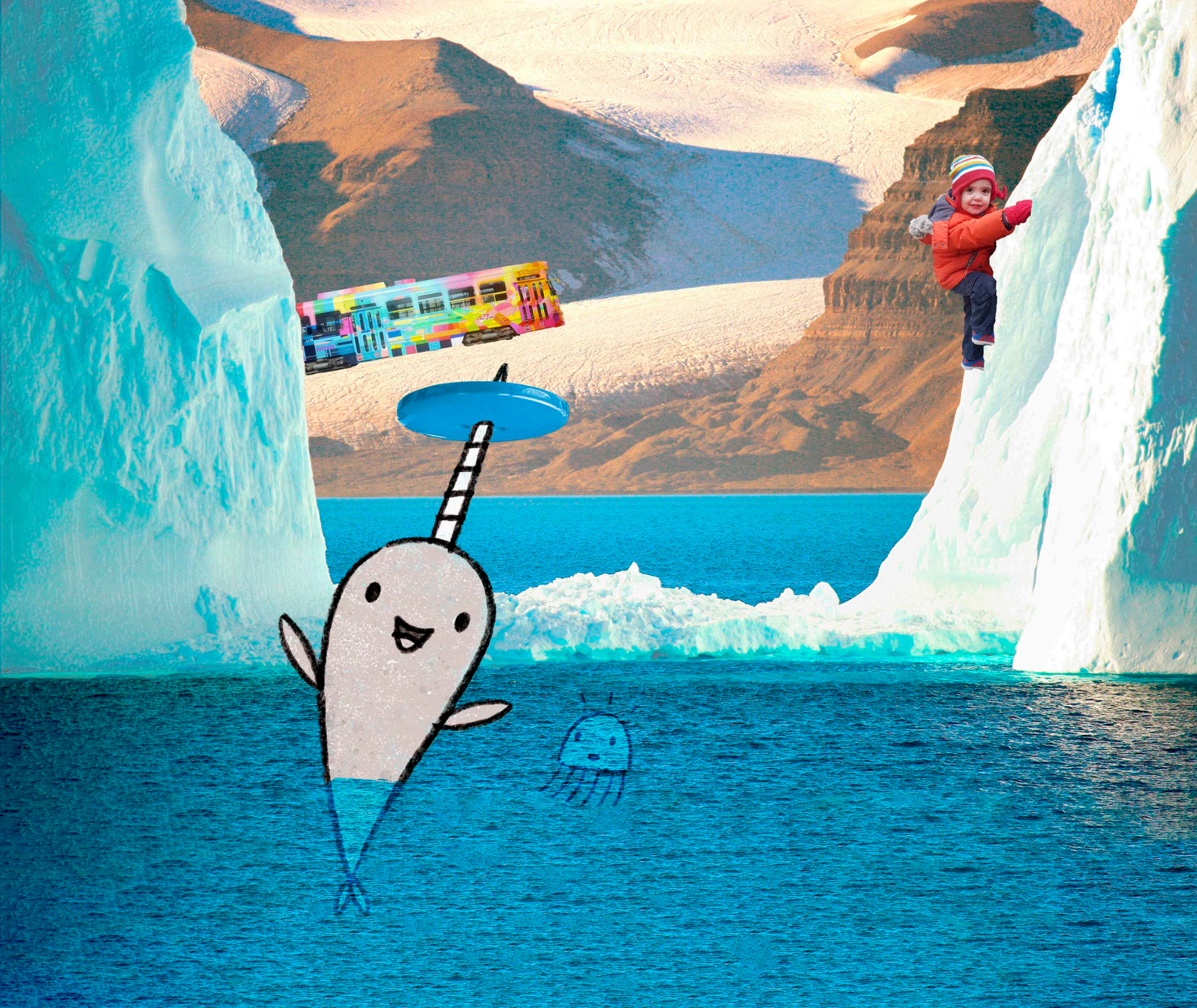
Gabriel and the Groovy Streetcar sped down the mountain, but they could not catch the button. They drove across the tundra, but they could not catch the button. They slid across the icy arctic, but STILL, they could not catch the button.



Gabriel chased the button across the rocky seashore. Suddenly, he saw something incredible. Something spectacular. Something

AWESOME!!

The teal button rolled down toward the sea, flew into the air, and landed right on Narwhal's horn!



Gabriel stayed in the arctic with Narwhal and Jelly for many days and many nights. Together, they journeyed through the northern waters. One day, Gabriel was kayaking with Narwhal and Jelly swimming alongside when suddenly they heard a

POP!!

A blue button rolled down the ice. “We’ll catch that button!” Gabriel said as he raced toward the Groovy Streetcar. “Swim along, Narwhal!”



The blue button rolled on.

Gabriel and the Groovy Streetcar raced southward, but they could not catch the button. They descended into a valley, but they could not catch the button. They glided along the shores of sparkling lakes, but STILL, they could not catch the button.





Gabriel jumped out of the streetcar and chased the button along the shores of a clear mountain lake. Suddenly, he saw something incredible. Something spectacular. Something

DRAMATIC!!

The blue button rolled along the rocky lakeshore, bounced off of Olivia's painting and landed at her feet.



Gabriel stayed in Jasper Park with Olivia, Narwhal, and Jelly, for many days and many nights. Together, they studied Canadian Impressionism and painted many beautiful pictures. One day, Gabriel, Olivia, Narwhal, and Jelly were working on their greatest masterpieces yet when suddenly they heard a

POP!

A green button rolled down the road. “We’ll catch that button!” Gabriel said as he ran toward the Groovy Streetcar. “Come with us, Olivia!”



The green button rolled on.

Gabriel, Olivia, and the Groovy Streetcar sped eastward, but they could not catch the button. They raced across the broad, flat prairie, but they could not catch the button. They drove through golden wheat fields, but STILL, they could not catch the button.





Gabriel jumped out of the streetcar and chased the button through a field of wheat. Suddenly, he saw something incredible. Something spectacular. Something

LLAMARIFIC!!

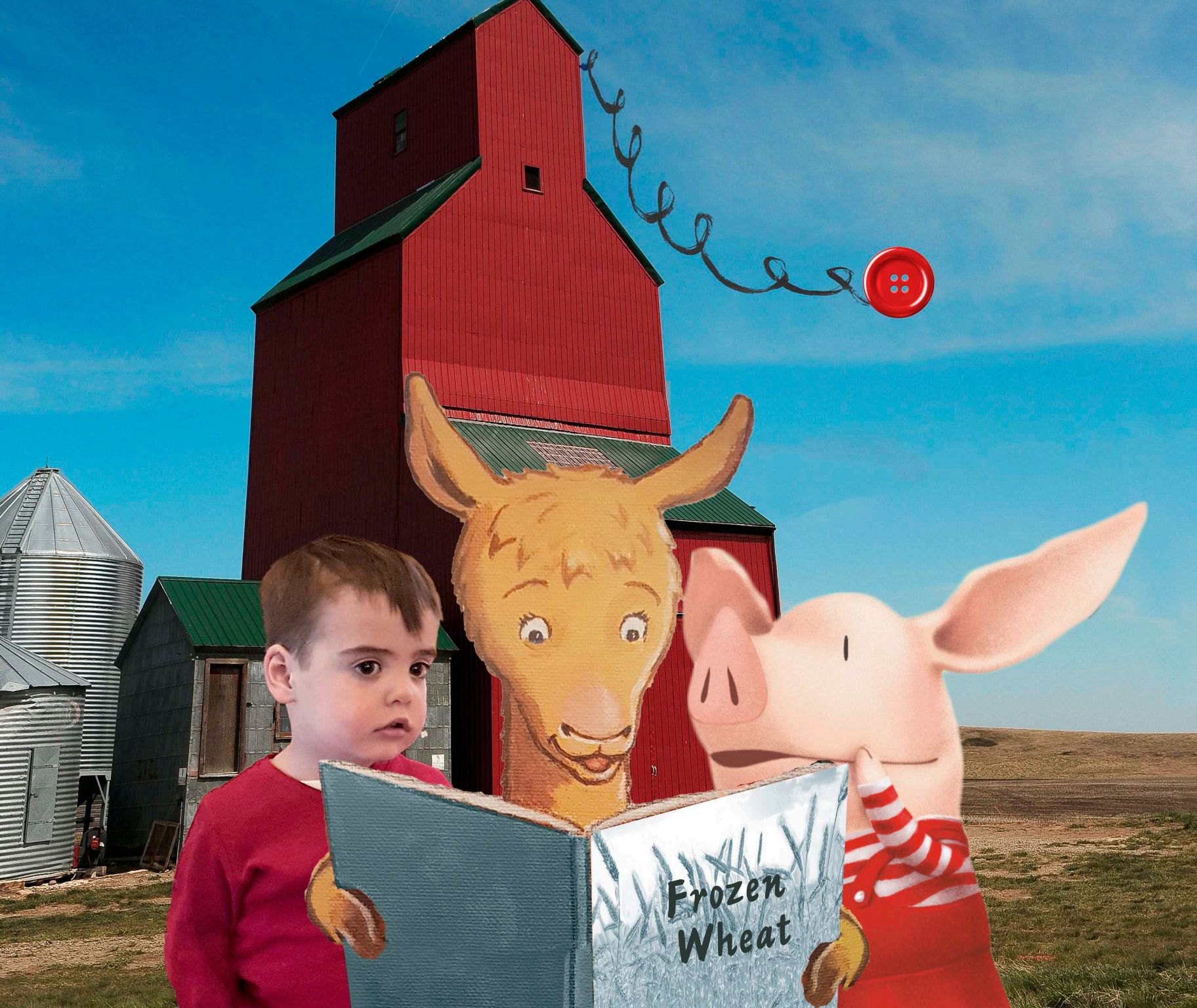
The green button rolled across the rich earth, bounced across Llama Llama's book piles and came to a stop, right on Fuzzy Llama's lap.

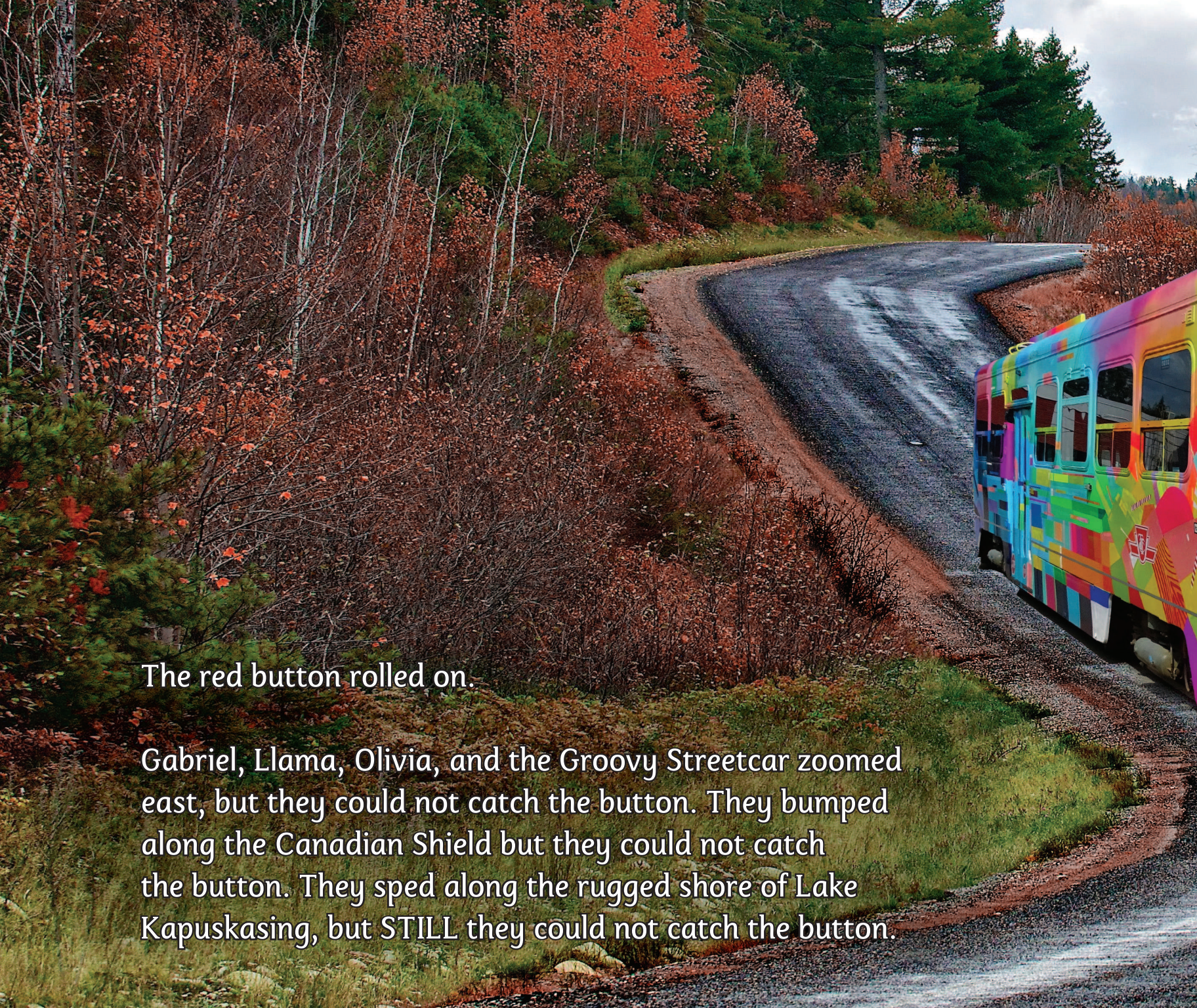


Gabriel stayed in Saskatoon with Llama Llama, Olivia, Narwhal, and Jelly for many days and many nights. They sang songs and read books. One day, Gabriel, Llama Llama and Olivia were engrossed in a quirky multi-generational family saga when suddenly they heard a

POP!

A red button rolled down the grain elevator to the road. “We’ll catch that button!” Gabriel said as he ran toward the Groovy Streetcar. “Come with us, Llama!”





The red button rolled on.

Gabriel, Llama, Olivia, and the Groovy Streetcar zoomed east, but they could not catch the button. They bumped along the Canadian Shield but they could not catch the button. They sped along the rugged shore of Lake Kapuskasing, but STILL they could not catch the button.



Gabriel jumped aboard a canoe and paddled across the lake. Suddenly he saw something incredible. Something spectacular. Something

PUGTASTIC!!

The red button skipped across the lake and bounced right off Pig the Pug's head.



Gabriel stayed in Kapuskasing with Pig, Trevor, Llama, Olivia, Narwhal, and Jelly for many days and many nights. Together, they studied the culinary arts and enjoyed splendid feasts.

One day, Gabriel, Pig, Trevor, Llama, Olivia, Narwhal, and Jelly were fishing for their dinner when suddenly Narwhal said “It would be so AWESOME to see the ocean again!”

And so, Gabriel, Pig, Trevor, Llama and Olivia climbed aboard the Groovy Streetcar and continued eastward as Narwhal and Jelly travelled through Canada’s spectacular waterways.





The friends drove East for many days and many nights. They sailed across the North Atlantic until they reached Canada's most scenic province. Then they journeyed on until, at last, they reached St. John's, Newfoundland.



ST. JOHN'S

ST. JOHN'S

4178

4178

Gabriel climbed down from the streetcar and admired the magnificent view. And as he gazed out over the water, he heard something wondrous. Something lively and traditional. Something

COOL!!

Pete the Cat and his band were playing a lively jig about four groovy buttons that rolled away.







“Groovy buttons?” Gabriel said. “My friends and I found four big, colourful, round, groovy buttons rolling across Canada! Are these your buttons?”

Pete the Cat was amazed to see his lost buttons. He rushed to sew them back on his favourite yellow shirt.

Gabriel, Pete, Pig, Trevor, Llama, Olivia, Narwhal and Jelly spent many days and many nights in St. John's. They painted ...







They toured the sea and fished.



And they read books.





One day, Gabriel, Pete, Pig, Trevor, Llama, and Olivia were practicing the Cool Cat Boogie, as Narwhal and Jelly swam in the bay. Gabriel said, “I miss Toronto. I want to go home to Daisy’s house.”

“Let’s go!” the friends replied.





The eight friends jumped aboard the Groovy Streetcar for the long journey to Daisy's house. The streetcar gathered speed going down Signal Hill. Before anyone knew what was happening, it zoomed into a tunnel at the bottom of the hill.

The Groovy Streetcar travelled through the tunnel for many days and many nights. As it travelled, something strange happened. The streetcar got smaller and smaller. Eventually, the streetcar was so small that Gabriel and his friends were riding on top of it instead of sitting inside.





Soon it was even too small to ride. One day, at last, Gabriel saw a light.



Gabriel crawled out from under the bed and spent the rest of the afternoon playing with his new friends and his *new* favourite streetcar.



Destined to become a classic, beloved by a generation! I love how every stop he makes, he makes a new friend. Can't stay for long. He hears a POP! and he's gone again. Maybe tomorrow, he'll want to head on home. Until tomorrow, he'll just keep driving on.

The Littlest Hobo
Traveller, friend and helper to all, Canadian icon